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## **STATEMENT ON JFAC PASSAGE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET**

(BOISE) -- Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra expressed her “deep appreciation” for the public school financing recommendations approved by the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee Friday.

The measures approved represent an historic 7.5 percent increase in the general fund public school budget, raising allocations by \$102.9 million to just over \$1.477 billion. Those funds include a significant 6.5 percent increase in the discretionary funding for local school districts that had been one of the key components of Superintendent Ybarra’s original proposals to the legislature.

The recommendations also call for \$33.5 million to fund the new career ladder, as well as a 3 percent increase in the base salaries for pupil services, administration and classified staff.

“We appreciate the open lines of communication with members of JFAC, and members of the legislature. This demonstrates what can be accomplished for Idaho students when great ideas are coupled with an environment of collaboration.”

Chief Deputy Superintendent Pete Koehler noted “It has been a great legislative session for the children of Idaho.”

JFAC’s recommendations now go to the House and Senate for final action and then to Gov. C.L “Butch” Otter for his signature.

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